

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-47. (canceled)

48. (new) A method for drying a coating layer which is formed by applying a coating solution containing solvent to a moving web, comprising:

condensing vapor of said solvent by a condensing mechanism disposed on a coating side of said moving web;

recovering the condensed vapor of said solvent by a recovery mechanism; and

keeping the temperature of said recovery mechanism higher than that of said condensing mechanism by a temperature control mechanism such that said vapor of said solvent does not condense on said recovery mechanism.

49. (new) The method claimed in claim 48, wherein said condensing mechanism and said recovery mechanism are thermally insulated from each other.

50. (new) The method claimed in claim 49, wherein a thermo-insulating member is disposed between said condensing mechanism and said recovery mechanism.

51. (new) The method claimed in claim 48, wherein said condensing mechanism is disposed so as to confront said coating layer.

52. (new) The method claimed in claim 48, wherein said recovery mechanism is connected to said condensing mechanism, and said condensed vapor flows into said recovery mechanism from said condensing mechanism.